



File Code: 2810
Date: May 14, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

The Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, has received a request approval for geotechnical drilling for the installation of instruments for long-term investigations within the Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF). The Tongass National Forest is considering the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This activity falls within a category of actions established by the Chief of the Forest Service which normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of human environment and, therefore may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. Specifically, this decision may be categorically excluded under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8), short-term (1-year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigation and their incidental support activities.

The Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company has proposed geotechnical drilling within the TDF area. The proposed activities are for the installation of geophysical and/or hydrological instruments for long-term monitoring to support advancement of modifications to the Plan of Operations for the TDF. The total land disturbance will be less than .5 acres. Temporary roads (20-feet x 20-feet) will be constructed during this activity and removed once surface drilling activities have ended. Surface activities will commence this summer or fall of 2019.

The 2019 Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's Plan of Operations and other information, including maps for the drilling sites, are available for review at the Juneau Ranger District office or on the Tongass National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55669>

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide meaningful input on a proposed action implementing a land and resource management plan prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. In order to be most useful your comments should be provided by June 14, 2019 so we can incorporate them into the Decision Memorandum. Comments may be sent to: comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us and written comments may be sent to:

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Phone: 907-789-6275



Sincerely,



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Admiralty Island National Monument District Ranger

cc: Kris Rutledge